

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for managing storage space in a storage medium of digital terminal equipment for data storage of images according to a prioritized pixel transmission method, wherein each image is stored in a data file that consists of an array of individual image pixels, wherein each pixel has a pixel value that describes the color or brightness information of the pixel, ~~wherein a priority value for each pixel of the array is determined by calculating a pixel difference value based on the given pixel value of the pixel in relation to the pixel values of a previously selected group of neighboring pixels, the priority values indicating the relative importance of the~~ respective pixels to the image, ~~the pixels that are used for calculating the priority value are grouped into a pixel group, and pixel groups of the image array are sorted based on their priority value, wherein multiple data files with pixel groups sorted by priority (P₁, P₂, ..., P_n) are saved to the storage medium, wherein the method comprises comprising~~ the following steps:

- a. determining a priority value for each pixel of the array by calculating a pixel difference value based on the given pixel value of the pixel in relation to the pixel values of a previously selected group of neighboring pixels, the priority values indicating the relative importance of the respective pixels to the image;

- b. grouping the pixels that are used for calculating the priority value into a pixel group;
- c. sorting pixel groups of the image array based on their priority values;
- d. saving multiple data files with pixel groups sorted by priority (P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n) on the storage medium;
- a-e. selecting a lower priority threshold value (P_u) and an upper priority threshold value (P_o), wherein the priority threshold values indirectly indicate how much information content of a file is stored on the storage medium, the lower priority threshold means that a greater number of pixel groups are available for reconstruction of the image, and the upper priority threshold means that a fewer number of pixel groups are available for reconstruction of the image;
- b-f. storing files in the form of their pixel groups having priority values between the highest priority (P_1) and a priority corresponding to the selected lower priority threshold value (P_u) until the available storage space of the storage medium has been filled;
- e-g. increasing the lower priority threshold value (P_u) by one priority level;
- d-h. deleting pixel groups with a lower priority than that of the current priority threshold value (P_u) on the storage medium when additional storage space is needed on the storage medium to create freed storage space; and
- e-i. using the freed storage space in the storage medium for storing further data.

2. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising the steps of repeating, in dependence upon the required storage space, steps b)-e) until the upper priority threshold (Po) is reached.

3. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the priority threshold values (Po, Pu) are adjustable by the user of the terminal equipment.

4. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the priority threshold values (Po, Pu) are permanently preset by the manufacturer of the terminal equipment.

5. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the method steps are applied only to certain files selected by the user of the terminal equipment.

6. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the storage medium comprises multiple partial storage areas, wherein for each partial storage area individual priority threshold values are definable.

7. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the data is subdividable into multiple quality classes, wherein for each quality class individual priority threshold values are definable.

8. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the pixel groups are formed from digitized scanning values of an audio signal.

9. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the files contain image data, video data or audio data.

10. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein certain image/data areas, such as faces or texts contained in the image can be changed by the user in their prioritization even subsequently.

11. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the priority threshold values (Po, Pu) are adjustable by the user of the terminal equipment.

12. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the method steps are applied only to certain files selected by the user of the terminal equipment.

13. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the storage medium comprises multiple partial storage areas, wherein for each partial storage area individual priority threshold values are definable.

14. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 13, wherein the data is subdividable into multiple quality classes, wherein for each quality class individual priority threshold values are definable.

15. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the pixel groups are formed from digitized scanning values of an audio signal.

16. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 15, wherein the files contain image data, video data or audio data.

17. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 16, wherein certain image/data areas, such as faces or texts contained in the image can be changed by the user in their prioritization even subsequently.

18. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the priority threshold values (Po, Pu) are permanently preset by the manufacturer of the terminal equipment.

19. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 18, wherein the method steps are applied only to certain files selected by the user of the terminal equipment.

20. **(Previously Presented)** A method as set forth in claim 19, wherein the storage medium comprises multiple partial storage areas, wherein for each partial storage area individual priority threshold values are definable.